

Freedom of Information request 513-19

Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), I am requesting details around waiting times for Paediatric Extractions (PEs) of teeth under General Anaesthetic (GA) in each NHS Board.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for your NHS Board:

1. Number of children who have had teeth extracted under GA in each calendar year since 2014
2. Number and age of children waiting for (a) assessment and (b) extractions under GA on 1 October in each year from 2015-19 inclusive (i.e. 5 years' data)
3. Average waiting times for the above procedures (same timeframe as above)
4. Number of WTE paediatric anaesthetists – or other anaesthetists who take part in paediatric procedures (same timeframe as above)
5. Number of WTE anaesthetist vacancies (same timeframe as above)
6. Number of cancelled theatre sessions for PEs under GA in the 12 months to 1 October 2019, and the total number of patients who were due to be treated during these sessions.
7. Number of appointments patients either cancelled or failed to attend for either assessment or extractions in the year up to 1 October 2019.

Response

1. Please find below the number of children who have had teeth extracted under GA since 2014:

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2014 | 91 |
| 2015 | 80 |
| 2016 | 73 |
| 2017 | 84 |
| 2018 | 109 |
| 2019 | 85 |

2. Please find below the number and age of children awaiting assessment and extractions under GA since 2015:

Assessments of Children 1st October

| Year/Age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | Total |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2015 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| 2017 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 17 |
| 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 22 |
| 2019 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 23 |

Extractions Under GA of Children 1st October

| Year/Age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | Total |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2015 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2017 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 22 |
| 2018 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 63 |
| 2019 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 26 |

3. Please find below the average waiting times for the above procedures:

| Year | Children – Assessment Average Wait in weeks | Children – Extraction Average Wait in weeks |
|-------------|--|--|
| 2015 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| 2016 | 7.3 | 9.8 |
| 2017 | 15 | 7.6 |
| 2018 | 13.4 | 16.2 |
| 2019 | 4.9 | 10.8 |

4&5 Information on the trends for Anaesthetist posts, whole time equivalent and vacancies over this time period are contained on the ISD website below. All Anaesthetists at Consultant and Career grade level take part in Paediatric procedures. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere:

<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2019-06-04/Medical-and-Dental.asp>

6. This information is not held, therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data cannot be provided.

7. Please find below the number of children who cancelled or failed to attend for assessment or extraction in the year to 1 October 2019:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Assessment CNA | 63 |
| Assessment DNA | 44 |
| Extractions DNA or CNA | 23 |

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **513-19** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.